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networkMaryland Unveils Statewide High-Speed Infrastructure to Connect Public Sector Networks

Phase I Kicks Off the Network by Connecting Across Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 30, 2002) - The Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) today announced that the networkMaryland project, a statewide high-speed infrastructure connecting public sector networks, has launched Phase I that includes Internet access across four InterLATA's (Local Access and Transport Area). In two separate events, one in Western Maryland and another in Southern Maryland, state officials officiated the launch. Speaker of the House Casper R. Taylor and Cumberland Mayor Lee Fiedler spoke in Allegany County at Frostburg State University and Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton spoke at the Charles County Government Building.

"Today marks an important milestone in the development of this infrastructure as we move forward with the networkMaryland project," said Speaker Taylor. "networkMaryland is good for Rural Maryland, helping the underserved areas of the State to become connected."

As part of this design, networkMaryland will provide the public sector with Intranet connectivity, consolidated networks, maximized resources and shared information.

 "The State has provided the funds necessary to build out this first phase of the network, an important investment that can now be leveraged by government, education, among many other institutions across the state, by bringing enhanced connectivity to every region," Senator Middleton.

Local networks have already committed to taking part in this new technology when launched: Allconet (Allegany County's network), Charles County Government and University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

"The fact that networkMaryland exists today, that we can 'flip the switch' for high-speed InterLATA connections, is the direct result of intergovernmental cooperation, interagency teamwork, and a mutual motivation to provide the highest level of service to the taxpayers of Maryland," said DBM Secretary Eloise Foster.

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The engineering plan utilizes leased facilities, State owned fiber and equipment to construct a statewide backbone to all regions. The State plans to establish a network operations center for network monitoring, maintenance and customer care.

All stakeholders will have the opportunity to be consistently and actively involved in the direction of the project through the Advisory Group, and will have access to the same service at the same price.

networkMaryland is a statewide high-speed Internet available throughout the State of Maryland to connect Public Sector customers' networks. For more information on networkMaryland, please visit http://www.techmd.state.md.us/Technology/networkmdpage.htm

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